

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 133918
ORIGIN SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 CTME-00
HEW-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 /087 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM: L ALEXANDER
APPROVED BY S/NM: M FALCO
DEA: D GALANOS(PHONE)
ARA/MEX: K MCKUNE (INFO)
ARA/RPP: E PERREAULT (INFO)
-----119462 260015Z /62
P 252221Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133918

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: DEA'S CONCERNS ABOUT MEXICAN ERADICATION PROGRAM

1. ON MAY 22 S/NM CONTRACT EMPLOYEE JOHN FORD BRIEFED WASHINGTON PRINCIPALS ON THE SPRING ERADICATION PROGRAM IN MEXICO. PRESENT AT THE BRIEFING WEREMSSRS. BENSINGER, LINK - DEA; MSSRS. CHASEN, DE ANGELUS - CUSTOMS; DR. HARMINSON - HEW; AND THE SR. ADVISER. BENSINGER NOTED THE FOLLOWING ABOUT THE ERADICATION PROGRAM.

A) DEA BELIEVES, BASED ON EMBASSY REPORTS, THAT RECON-
NAISSANCE OF FIELDS SHOULD BE MADE IN HELICOPTERS
RATHER THAN FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 133918

B) ACCORDING TO DEA ANALYSIS, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF
POPPY FIELDS LOCATED BY FORD'S MONITORING TEAM WERE NOT
ERADICATED. OF 1,533 POPPY FIELDS LOCATED, 288 (18)
WERE IN SOME STAGE OF GROWTH RANGING FROM YOUNG PLANTS TO
FLOWERS AND BULBS.

C) THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AREA

WAS TRANSFERRED TO TIAJUANA IN APRIL. A NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR SHOULD BE SELECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW INTERFACE WITH ERADICATION AND INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS.

D) THERE IS WIDESPREAD USE OF CAMOUFLAGE BY CULTIVATORS MAKING DETECTION MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

E) THE TIMING OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM FOR 1978 AND THE US GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE MONITORING AND VERIFICATION OF THAT PHASE NEEDS TO BE CLARIFIED. THE US GOVERNMENT MUST DEVELOP A UNIFIED POSITION AS TO WHAT WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT AS A MONITORING AND VERIFICATION PROGRAM, FORMALIZE THAT POSITION, AND PRESENT IT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO FOR APPROVAL. ADDITIONALLY, DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITH GOM OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE DATE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE FALL ERADICATION PROGRAM.

2. MR. FORD NOTED THAT (A) THE MEXICANS INTEND THAT FUTURE RECONNAISSANCE SHOULD BE PERFORMED IN HELICOPTERS DUE TO NEW GROWING PATTERNS. THEY PLAN TO USE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT TO LOCATE LARGER AREAS AND HELICOPTERS FOR MORE PRECISE RECONNAISSANCE.

(B) FORD EXPLAINED THAT MANY FIELDS WHICH WERE ONLY PARTIALLY SPRAYED WERE REPORTED AS NOT ERADICATED. THIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 133918

INACCURATE COUNTING ACCOUNTED FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF THE FIELDS REPORTED NOT ERADICATED.

(C) S/NM STAFF ADVISED THAT THE MEXICANS WILL SOON ASSIGN A NATIONAL COORDINATOR TO THE CULIACAN REGION.

(D) REGARDING ERADICATION, THE MEXICANS HAVE A YEAR-ROUND ERADICATION PROGRAM WHICH THEY ROUTINELY INTENSIFY DURING THE SPRING AND FALL GROWING SEASON.

3. BENSINGER ASKED FORD WHETHER HE BELIEVED THE US REQUIRES AN ONGOING MONITORING AND VERIFICATION PROGRAM. FORD REPLIED THAT, GIVEN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MEXICANS TO DATE, OUR SENDING MONITORING TEAMS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO ASSURE AN INDEPENDENT USG VERIFICATION OF ERADICATION, BUT THAT SUCH A TEAM WAS NOT ESSENTIAL TO THE ERADICATION EFFORT. THE MEXICAN A.G. (ACCORDING TO EMBASSY REPORTING) INDICATED AN INTEREST IN A FALL MONITORING EXERCISE USING A CONTRACT WITH FORD AND AS BEING BENEFICIAL TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS. MR. BENSINGER AGREED WITH MR. FORD'S ASSESSMENT THAT SUCH A MONITORING EXERCISE COULD BE EFFECTIVE ON A SELECTED SAMPLING BASIS, IN ORDER

TO CONSERVE FIELD RESOURCES AND MAINTAIN FIELD COOPERATION.
WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO EMBASSY REPORTS CONCERNING GOM
PLANS TO INITIATE THE INTENSIFIED FALL CAMPAIGN.

4. THOSE PRESENT AGREED THAT IF MR. FORD IS CONTRACTED
BY THE GOM TO ASSIST IN THE PROPOSED 30 DAY DYE TEST,
THIS WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE US CONTRACTING HIM SUBSE-
QUENTLY TO MONITOR/VERIFY GOM ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CROP DESTRUCTION, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE133918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: L ALEXANDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780221-1043
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780517/aaaaaojt.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65773096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2561930
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEA'S CONCERNS ABOUT MEXICAN ERADICATION PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, MX, DEA
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65773096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014